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**General Assembly**
**Tenth emergency special session**
Agenda item 5
**Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory**

**Security Council**
**Sixty-ninth year**

## Identical letters dated 2 October 2014 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I regret to inform you of the continuing turmoil and deterioration of the situation in the Occupied State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem, due to illegal and provocative policies that continue to be pursued by Israel, the occupying Power. These illegal policies continue to negatively impact and prejudice the situation on the ground, to cause suffering and hardship for the Palestinian people and to inflame already heightened tensions between the two sides.

The international community bears witness, yet again, to Israel's fixation with its illegal settlement enterprise, which includes the destruction, theft and confiscation of Palestinian lands and properties, the construction and expansion of both settlements and the Wall and the forced displacement of Palestinian families. Just today Israel announced that the construction of 2,610 new units for the illegal settlement of "Gi'vat Hamatos" in Beit Safafa in Occupied East Jerusalem, which was approved in 2012, will now begin and that the Government will publish tenders for construction. If implemented, these plans would further isolate East Jerusalem from Bethlehem, while facilitating Israel's attempts to link its illegal settlements of "Gilo" and "Har Homa". Moreover, in recent weeks, the Israeli Government announced plans to forcibly transfer approximately 13,000 Palestinian civilians from the Bedouin communities, the large majority constituting Palestine refugees, from their current areas of residence to the east of Jerusalem to an area near Jericho. The plan to undertake such a forced transfer, in grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention, is also clearly and directly related to Israel's illegal settlement schemes, particularly in the so-called E1 area.

We have repeatedly cautioned that this illegal Israeli settlement campaign is undermining and fragmenting the contiguity and territorial integrity of the State of Palestine and threatens the viability and prospects for the physical realization of the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders. This is being carried out in



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flagrant and grave breach of international humanitarian law and in complete defiance of condemnation by the international community. It also should be noted that in the past six months alone, at least 7,500 illegal Israeli settlers have been transferred into settlements in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. The Palestinian leadership reiterates its demand that the occupying Power rescind these latest decisions and demands that Israel, the occupying Power, cease immediately and completely all of its settlement activities in the Occupied State of Palestine, including in and around East Jerusalem, and abide by its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention.

I wish to also bring your attention to another dangerous development regarding the repeated incursions and provocations by extremist settlers at Al-Haram Al-Sharif in Occupied East Jerusalem. Yesterday, 1 October, a group of over 80 Israeli extremists entered the Al-Aqsa compound and assaulted Palestinian worshippers and attempted to attack Al-Aqsa guards all while the heavily-armed occupying forces who were escorting them looked on and refused to take any measures to halt the extremists' attacks. Such provocations not only threaten to ignite the already inflamed climate, but completely disregard the sensitive status of Al-Aqsa Mosque, the first *qibla* and third holiest site in Islam. Such continued illegal Israeli actions at Al-Haram Al-Sharif are also in violation of the numerous relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions calling for the cessation of all Israeli policies and measures aimed at altering the character, legal status and demography of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and for respect by Israel, the occupying Power, of its obligations under international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, which prohibits such actions.

Furthermore, we must continue to draw the international community's attention to the ongoing plight of the more than 1.8 million Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip who continue to suffer exponentially from the massive human devastation and physical destruction caused by the more than 50-day criminal Israeli military aggression against Gaza. They must not be forgotten and all efforts must be undertaken to alleviate their suffering and hardships. The humanitarian disaster in Gaza is only worsening as the Israeli blockade continues to obstruct the massive reconstruction and recovery efforts so urgently required. Thousands of families rendered homeless by the Israeli destruction of their homes remain displaced in Gaza, sheltering in UNRWA schools or with host families; thousands of civilians continue to require medical care due to wounds sustained in the Israeli attacks; clean water for human consumption remains scarce; electricity cuts continue up to 18 hours a day because of lack of fuel for the power plant, affecting every sector of life; and thousands of unexploded ordnance launched by Israel at Gaza continue to threaten civilian lives and require removal prior to any effective reconstruction. In addition, yesterday, 1 October, Israeli military vehicles entered the southern Gaza Strip and opened fire on Palestinian farmers tending their agricultural fields, violating yet again the ceasefire agreed to by the parties on 26 August 2014. Also in Gaza, Rahaf Abu Jame, age 5, succumbed to her wounds sustained from an Israeli air strike that occurred during Israel's 50-day aggression. Rahaf's parents were also killed in that same air strike, along with at least 24 other members of the Abu Jame family. Rahaf is the third Palestinian in Gaza to have succumbed to injuries during the past week.

In addition to the above, I am compelled to draw the international community's attention to the several incidents that have taken place since our last letter, dated 17 September 2014. These actions, in violation of international law,

continue to inflict hardship on our people and are aggravating already-high tensions and instability at this time:

17 September

- Israeli naval forces opened fire off the coast of northern Gaza, injuring a Palestinian fisherman, Yousef Zayed, age 70, on a beach while waiting for his sons near al-Sudaniya.

18 September

- Several Israeli bulldozers entered the southern Gaza Strip and levelled Palestinian land. In the week prior, four Israeli bulldozers entered the Al Qarara area and demolished private land.
- Two Palestinians, Ayman Ziad Abu Jibba, age 23, and Abdullah Jibril Abu Aser, age 23, were killed and three were injured when an unexploded Israeli bomb blew up in the Al Shujaiya neighbourhood of eastern Gaza City.

22 September

- Israeli occupying forces assassinated two Palestinians, Marwan Kawasme and Amar Abu Aysha, both in their thirties, in the town of Al Khalil (Hebron), alleging that the two men were involved in the killing of the three Israeli settlers in June.
- Israeli occupying forces arrested four Palestinian fishermen from central Gaza Strip while they were on their fishing boat and arrested eight Palestinians, including two minors, from the West Bank.
- In demonstrations in Al Khalil, occupying forces shot and injured three Palestinians and caused suffering to many others as a result of the shooting of tear gas canisters.
- Israeli occupying forces heavily deployed at all gates of the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound imposing restrictions on the entry of Muslim worshipers, violating the right to freedom of religion, ahead of the Jewish New Year.

24 September

- Israeli forces arrested Palestinians from Bethlehem, Tubas and Hebron districts, bringing the number of Palestinians imprisoned by Israeli occupying forces in the month of September to 560, including 163 prisoners from Al Khalil and 108 from Jenin. Currently, more than 6,000 Palestinians are being held in the occupying Power's prisons, enduring torture, abuse and horrific conditions of captivity.

30 September

- Israeli settlers, escorted by heavily armed Israeli forces, occupied 23 houses in the Palestinian neighbourhood of Silwan, south of the Old City of Jerusalem. The Israeli settlers stormed Silwan and forcibly evicted at least eight families. The families of Baydoun, Al Karaki, Abu Sbeih, Al Zawahra, Al Abbasi, Al Khayyat, Qarain and Al Yamani are now homeless.

In the light of the above and of what has been taking place over the past 47 years of Israel's belligerent military occupation of the Palestinian people and their land, it is high time for the international community, whose commitment to this

solution has been repeatedly reaffirmed, to act consistently with its longstanding principled commitment, and in accordance with relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, to act now to bring an end to this illegal occupation. A clear demand must be made to Israel, the occupying Power, to cease all of its illegal actions and to commit to the path of peace. The international community, foremost the Security Council, has clear responsibilities in this regard and must no longer tolerate the occupying Power's empty pretexts, deception and utter disdain for international law and will. Collective action is necessary to hold Israel accountable for its violations and crimes and finally bring about the complete termination of this Israeli occupation. In this regard, we respectfully implore all members of the Security Council to fully support the Palestinian initiative to seek a Security Council resolution that would, inter alia, delineate a timeframe for an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 on the basis of the longstanding parameters enshrined in United Nations resolutions, the Madrid principles, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet road map, in order to finally achieve the freedom and rights unjustly denied to the Palestinian people and allow for the realization of peace and security for both sides.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 522 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 17 September 2014 (A/ES-10/657-S/2014/672), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed against the Palestinian people. Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

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**Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory**

**Security Council**
**Sixty-ninth year**

## Identical letters dated 14 October 2014 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I write to alert you to the critical situation and continuously rising tensions in the Occupied State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem, as a result of Israel's relentless illegal policy and oppressive actions against the Palestinian people. On a daily basis, the occupying Power persists with its grave violations of international law, including rampant settlement activities, the dispossession of Palestinian civilians, violent military raids, including into schools, daily detentions and arrests of Palestinians, constant provocations, including incitement at holy sites and the destruction of Palestinian property by extremist Israeli settlers, and the illegal blockade of the Gaza Strip. All of these violations are exacerbating already volatile conditions and heightening tensions, which threaten to completely destabilize the situation on the ground.

I first wish to draw your attention to Israel's incitement and provocations against holy sites in Occupied East Jerusalem, namely at Al-Haram Al-Sharif (the Noble Sanctuary, which houses the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque and Qubbat Al-Sakhra (Dome of the Rock). In yet another dangerous development, yesterday, 13 October, the right-wing Deputy Speaker of the Israeli Knesset and member of the party of the Prime Minister, Moshe Feiglin, protected by hundreds of Israeli occupying forces, entered Al-Aqsa Mosque yet again, which led to violent clashes, with innocent Palestinian worshippers injured by stun grenades and rubber-coated bullets. It should be noted that Feiglin is a controversial figure, whose provocative and racist words and actions against the Palestinian people have been the source of repeated incitement. He is well known for his advocacy for Palestinian displacement and hate-filled speeches openly made against Palestinians and Arabs as a whole.

It should be mentioned that this latest provocation comes on the heels of clashes that occurred last week, when Israeli forces stormed Al-Aqsa Mosque and forcibly removed worshipers, attacking some of them with clubs, and firing tear gas,



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stun grenades and rubber bullets. Some of the stun grenades were fired into Al-Aqsa Mosque itself, causing a fire to break out and damage to the holy site. Moreover, the occupying Power even locked Palestinian worshipers in Al-Aqsa Mosque, preventing them from leaving. It is transparent, as was stated by Dr. Hanan Ashrawi, Member of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, that Israel is attempting to create a new reality at the expense of the Palestinians, their religious rights, sites and historical identity and are violating the sanctity of religious sites without consequence.

We reiterate the dangers of such continuous provocations and incitement in or near Al-Aqsa Mosque, the first *qibla* and the third holiest site of Islam. Further provocations will only inflame tensions that are already high and anger among the Palestinian people and beyond, with dangerous ramifications. In this regard, we underscore the importance of a clear message of condemnation and rejection of such violations and provocations, such as yours made recently that you are "deeply concerned by repeated provocations at the holy sites in Jerusalem" and that "these only inflame tensions and must stop". It should be also noted that the occupying Power is carrying out the same illegal actions in relation to Al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Al-Khalil (Hebron), where worshipers are continuously prevented from praying inside by Israeli occupying forces and settlers.

Accordingly, all such acts of incitement against the holy sites in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as acts of provocation against the Palestinian people by the occupying Power, whether by the Government of Israel, its occupying forces or its illegal settlers, warrant the serious and immediate attention of the international community, including the Security Council, in line with its primary Charter duty of the maintenance of international peace and security, and in line with its numerous relevant resolutions calling for a cessation of all Israeli measures aimed at altering the character, the legal status and the demography of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

In this regard, serious attention must be given to the continuing rampages of terror being perpetrated by Israeli settlers, persisting with attacks on Palestinian civilians, the destruction of property and the theft of land and natural resources. Yesterday, 13 October, several Palestinians were injured when clashes broke out as more than 300 Israeli settlers, escorted by hundreds of Israeli occupying forces, broke into the holy site of Joseph's tomb in Nablus to perform religious rituals. One Palestinian was shot and injured and many others were seriously hurt, including a 16-year-old boy. In addition, on 9 October, Israeli settlers uprooted and destroyed dozens of Palestinian olive trees near the village of Hosan, west of Bethlehem. Settler lawlessness and the failure of the Israeli Government to rein them in and hold them accountable for their crimes starkly reflects Israel's complete disinterest in peace based on the two-State solution. I also wish to bring to your attention the fact that the occupying Power continues with its inhumane and illegal policy of evicting Palestinian families. Last week, the occupying Power served eviction orders to 20 families living in Al-Burj and Al-Ras Al-Ahmar in the northern Jordan Valley.

I would like to turn your attention to the humanitarian disaster that still exists in the occupied Gaza Strip following the more than 50-day criminal Israeli military aggression, which wrought massive human devastation and physical destruction in all areas. In this regard, we welcome the successful convening and conclusion of the

international conference on the reconstruction of Gaza, hosted by Egypt and Norway in Cairo, and express our hope that the generous donations pledged will be rapidly disbursed for the urgently needed reconstruction to commence under the supervision of the Palestinian National Consensus Government in collaboration with the United Nations. We also continue to reiterate our calls for the full lifting of the Israeli blockade for reconstruction and rehabilitation without delay and for the Palestinian people in Gaza to truly begin to rebuild their lives and communities.

Given the above, we call on the international community, including the Security Council, to give immediate attention to the rising tensions and the critical situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Serious efforts must be made to demand and ensure Israel's compliance with international law, relevant United Nations resolutions and the will of the international community before the situation further deteriorates. To remain silent in the face of such gross violations is unacceptable and will only bolster Israel's impunity and send the wrong message to the occupying Power — that it can continue to flout international law as it wishes without consequence. The time has to come to bring an end to Israel's occupation of almost five decades and to all of its crimes against the unprotected Palestinian civilian population and their land.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 523 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 2 October 2014 (A/ES-10/659-S/2014/716), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed against the Palestinian people. Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer
of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

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**Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory**

**Security Council**
**Sixty-ninth year**

## Identical letters dated 20 October 2014 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to my letter of 14 October 2014, I am compelled to place on record our absolute condemnation of the criminal, deadly actions being perpetrated by extremist terrorist settlers illegally transferred by Israel, the occupying Power, to the Palestinian land, as well as continued Israeli incitement and provocations against holy sites, in particular in East Jerusalem, in what appear to be deliberate attempts to exacerbate already volatile tensions and create further instability.

On a nearly daily basis, Israeli settlers continue with their terror rampages, persisting with attacks on Palestinian civilians, destruction of properties, and theft of land and natural resources. The latest terrorist crime by a settler occurred yesterday, 20 October 2014, when a settler ran over two young girls who were walking home from school in the West Bank town of Sinjil in a so-called "hit and run" accident. Kindergarten student Inas Khalil, age 5, and Nilin Asfour, age 8, had just gotten off the school bus and were walking to their mothers, who were waiting for them on the opposite side of the street, when an Israeli settler's car rammed directly into them and sped away. Inas and Nilin were both rushed to the hospital. Tragically, 5-year-old Inas was pronounced dead a couple of hours later, while Nilin still remains in critical condition. We condemn this brutal act of Israeli settler terrorism, and we call on the international community to unequivocally condemn this and all other such attacks and terror against Palestinian children under Israeli occupation.

It should also be mentioned that this so-called "hit and run" accident has become a recurring deadly practice by Israeli settlers against the Palestinian civilian population. In this regard, we draw your attention to the following similar incidents of so-called "hit and run" acts in just the past few months: on 25 September, a 10-year-old girl was hit by an Israeli settler in Silwan; on 17 August, a Palestinian man was killed after being hit by the car of an Israeli settler in Occupied East Jerusalem;



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on 14 August, a Palestinian man was hit by the car of an Israeli settler; and on 7 August, a settler hit and ran over an 8-year-old Palestinian girl in the southern West Bank.

Moreover, the following are among the many violent acts committed by extremist Israeli settlers in the recent period, which coincides with the Palestinian olive harvest season:

- 11 October: A large group of Israeli settlers violently beat a young Palestinian woman while she was picking olives in an orchard in the village of Yasuf in the Salfit district in the central West Bank. This attack was the third attack over a span of three days. The day before, a mother picking olives in an orchard outside Yasuf village was brutally beaten in front of her children by 10 Israeli settlers
- 12 October: Israeli settlers attempted to kidnap a 4-year-old child in Occupied East Jerusalem as he was standing at the entrance of the building where his family lives
- 14 October: A mosque near Nablus was set on fire and vandalized in another hate crime by Jewish settlers, who also spray-painted nationalist and racist graffiti on the mosque's walls
- 17 October: Dozens of Israeli settlers damaged and destroyed wells belonging to Palestinians in the Khirbet Samra area of the Jordan Valley
- 20 October: Israeli settlers, protected by occupying forces, took over two Palestinian apartment buildings and land in the Batn al-Hawa area, in the Silwan neighbourhood in Occupied East Jerusalem.

We reiterate that Israel, the occupying Power, is responsible for all of the crimes committed by the settlers it has transferred to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in grave breach of international law, including humanitarian law and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. We wish to also place on record that today, Israel's own President, Reuven Rivlin, stated that Israel is suffering from an epidemic of violence that must be treated, saying, "It is time to honestly admit that Israeli society is sick — and it is our duty to treat this disease." In order to truly treat the disease plaguing Israeli society, we call on the occupying Power to first and foremost recognize the illegality and brutality of this 47-year military occupation and the destructive impact it has had on both peoples. Moreover, Israel must act forthwith to hold the perpetrators of such crimes accountable and act to avert the continuation of these criminal, provocative attacks, which are aggravating tensions and religious sensitivities between the two sides, further stoking anger and rage and deepening mistrust.

We must also draw your attention to the continuing Israeli incitement and provocations against holy sites in Occupied East Jerusalem, namely, at Al-Haram Al-Sharif (the Noble Sanctuary), which houses the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque and Qubbat Al-Sakhra (Dome of the Rock). In this regard, on Friday, 17 October, thousands of Palestinians were forced to perform prayers in the streets and alleyways of the Old City of Jerusalem as men under the age of 50 were prevented by the occupying Power from entering the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound. Moreover, Israeli forces assaulted young worshippers as they attempted to enter the Old City for Friday prayers, and many sustained injuries. This follows the provocation of last

week when right-wing Deputy Speaker of the Israeli Knesset and member of the Prime Minister's party, Moshe Feiglin, protected by hundreds of Israeli occupying forces, yet again entered the Al-Aqsa Mosque, leading to violent clashes with innocent Palestinian worshippers, many of whom were injured by stun grenades and rubber-coated bullets.

We reiterate the dangers of such ongoing provocations and incitement. We condemn and reject all Israeli measures and attempts to illegally alter the character, historic and religious identity and legal status of these holy sites, and demand a halt to all such measures throughout Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of our State. This must include a halt to all illegal practices also aimed at altering the demographic composition of the City in grave breach of international humanitarian law and relevant United Nations resolutions. We reiterate the statement made by President Mahmoud Abbas that "the Palestinian leadership will be taking the necessary legal measures at the international level regarding the aggression of settlers against the Al-Aqsa Mosque".

Moreover, the Israeli occupying forces continue to use excessive force against Palestinian civilians, including children, causing death and injury and destruction of property. Over the past two weeks alone, the occupying Power has carried out 55 military invasions into Palestinian communities in the West Bank and arrested at least 51 Palestinians, including six children. One of the most recent victims of Israel's aggression against the Palestinian civilian population under its occupation was a 13-year-old Palestinian boy, Bahaa Samir Badir, who was shot dead by occupying forces during a military raid in the West Bank village of Beit Laqiya on 16 October. Bahaa was shot three times in the chest at close range by an Israeli commander and died two hours later. Tragically, as his family and friends mourn his death, their pain is compounded by the fact that the killing of this child, like so many other Palestinian children, will likely go unpunished and without consequence, without any accountability for the perpetration of these crimes by the Israeli occupying forces, as is the case with the above-mentioned killing of 5-year-old Inas by Israeli settlers.

We reiterate our calls on the international community to condemn these illegal and provocative Israeli actions and to act collectively to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to cease its violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to abide fully by its legal obligations and to act immediately to rein in the terror and violence being perpetrated by its settlers. The Security Council in particular must uphold its duty under the Charter of the United Nations to address this situation, which constitutes a constant threat to peace and security in the region and beyond. Contributing to the de-escalation of tensions and the respect of international law should be viewed as an absolute necessity and the collective responsibility of all to ensure.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 524 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 14 October 2014 (A/ES-10/660-S/2014/735), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed against the Palestinian people. Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable, and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine
to the United Nations

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**Security Council**
**Sixty-ninth year**

## Identical letters dated 27 October 2014 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I write to urgently draw your attention, yet again, to the dangerously escalating tensions in Occupied East Jerusalem, the capital of the State of Palestine. The illegal policies and the constant provocations and incitement by Israel, the occupying Power, and its settlers and other extremists against the Palestinian people, their land and their holy places are exacerbating already high tensions, risking further turmoil and destabilization of the extremely fragile situation on the ground, as reflected in the growing number of protests and clashes, particularly in Occupied East Jerusalem.

In grave breach of international law and in total contempt of the repeated international demands for cessation, Israel, the occupying Power, continues its illegal settlement campaign, which is clearly aimed at entrenching its illegitimate control over the Palestinian land it has belligerently occupied since 1967 and systematically destroying the two-State solution. This relentless colonization campaign has been most flagrant in Occupied East Jerusalem, with continued seizure of Palestinian properties, violent attacks on Palestinian civilians, demolition of Palestinian homes, forced displacement of Palestinian residents of the City, and provocative declarations regarding the construction of settlements.

In this regard, in a blatant act of reprisal for the events of the previous week, the Israeli Government has announced a decision to construct another 1,000 units in the illegal settlements of "Har Homa" (Jabal Abu Ghneim) in the south of Occupied East Jerusalem and "Ramat Shlomo" in the north of Occupied East Jerusalem. This announcement was preceded by the seizure last week of 35 Palestinian homes by extremist, State-sponsored settlers in the Silwan neighbourhood of the City, in yet another criminal act of property confiscation and forced displacement of Palestinian families, who are suffering constant pressure, violence, discrimination and racism in the City, as the brutality and malice of Israeli settlers and extremists continues to rise.



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We firmly condemn all of these actions and illegitimate plans, which coincide with the provocative and condemnable proposed Israeli legislation to change the status quo over the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound. In this regard, we caution of the extreme dangers of the unabated Israeli provocations and incitement, including by Israeli officials and other extremists and including attacks on innocent Palestinian worshippers, at Al-Haram Al-Sharif, which houses the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque and Qubbat Al-Sakhra (Dome of the Rock), and any attempts to alter the long-standing status quo at this Holy Site. We stress that these actions are inflaming an already volatile situation and threaten to further upset the religious sensitivities in the City and ignite another cycle of violence.

We appeal to the international community, including the Security Council, to demand that Israel, the occupying Power, rescind its plans and cease forthwith all of its illegal settlement activities and all other provocations and incitement throughout the Palestinian land, including in Occupied East Jerusalem. We recall, in this regard, the clear determination by the Security Council, including in its resolutions 446 (1979), 452 (1979), 465 (1980) and 478 (1980), of the illegality of Israel's policies and measures aimed at altering the demographic composition, character and status of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

Moreover, we recall the Council's determination that all such measures by Israel, the occupying Power, "to alter the character and status of the Holy City of Jerusalem, and in particular the recent 'basic law' on Jerusalem, are null and void and must be rescinded forthwith". The Security Council must act seriously to uphold its resolutions, including by undertaking action to ensure respect by Israel, the occupying Power, for those resolutions and compliance with all of its obligations thereunder and in accordance with the relevant provisions of international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention. In this regard, we call upon the Security Council to immediately convene an emergency meeting to address the crisis situation in Occupied East Jerusalem resulting from all of the above-mentioned illegal Israeli policies and measures, with a view to compelling Israel to cease immediately and completely its violations and to commit to the path of peace that it has clearly and recklessly abandoned.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 525 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 20 October 2014 (A/ES-10/661-S/2014/748) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed against the Palestinian people. Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine
to the United Nations